

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS LUBUMBASHI 0003

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BEXP, CG

SUBJECT: GECAMINES EXPANSION PROGRAM

REF: LUBUMBASHI 442 OF OCT 30, 1974

1. IN SPRING OF 1974 GECAMINES SENT OUT 300 REQUESTS FOR BIDS FOR ITS P-2 EXPANSION PROGRAM. IN A CONVERSATION ON JANUARY 2 GECAMINES SECRETARY GENERAL KORT GAVE CONSULATE OFFICIAL THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON PRESENT STATUS OF BIDS.

2. CLOSING DATE FOR LAST BIDS FOR ORIGINAL MODULES WAS NOVEMBER 4. BIDDING REMAINS OPEN ON ONLY ONE MAJOR MODULE, COAL GASIFICATION PLANT, AND THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE CLOSED IN FEBRUARY. BIDS RECEIVED ON OTHER MODULES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND GECAMINES HAS MADE ITS PREFERRED CHOICES ON MOST MODULES KNOWN TO WORLD BANK. IT NOW REMAINS FOR WORLD BANK TO APPROVE THESE CHOICES. MEETING BETWEEN OFFICIALS WORLD BANK AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK IN EUROPE JANUARY 7 EXPECTED TO FINALIZE ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOAN.

3. A) FLASH SMELTER: CONTRACT GIVEN TO U.KK. FIRM, DAVID POWER GAS, IN COMPETITION WITH BELGIAN AND FRENCH FIRMS. DAVID POWER GAS WILL WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH FINNISH FIRM OUTOKUMPU WHICH HOLDS PATENT FOR SMELTER.

B) SULFURIC ACID PLANT: ONLY FIRM TO REPLY WAS

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BELGIAN MECHIM.

C) CONCENTRATOR-DIMA: ONLY FIRM TO REPLY WAS BELGIAN SGM.

D) ELECTROREFINERY: THREE FIRMS REPLIED: MECHIM, MITSUBISHI (JAPANESE), AND LURGI (FRG). GECAMINES CHOICE NOT YET APPROVED BY WORLD BANK THEREFORE NOT OFFICIAL. HOWEVER, MECHIM APPEARS IN FAVORED POSITION AS MITSUBISHI MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE AND LURGI BID INCOMPLETE.

E) RECEIPTION OF CONCENTRATES: ONLY FIRM TO REPLY WAS MECHIM.

F) CONCRETE INFRASTRUCTURE: ONLY FIRM TO REPLY WAS SAFRICAS (ZAIROIS)

G) WATER TREATMENT PLANT: TWO REPLIES: EPURATION ET ENTREPRISES (BELGIUM) AND COMBINATION OF TWO FRENCH FIRMS CGEE ALSON-DEGREMONT. WORLD BANK HAS NOT ACTED ON GECAMINES RECOMMENDATION, CHOICE NOT KNOWN.

H) PREPARATION OF COMBUSTIBLES AND PROCESSOR: TWO REPLIES: MECHIM AND FRENCH COMBINATION CGEE ALSON-VENOT. BIDS ARE SIMILAR. WORLD BANK HAS NOT YET APPROVED GECAMINES RECOMMENDATION.

I) OXYGEN PLANT: TWO REPLIES: LIND (FRG) AND AIR LIQUIDE (FRANCE). WORLD BANK HAS NOT YET APPROVED GECAMINES RECOMMENDATION.

J) LIME PLANT: TWO REPLIES: F.L. SCHMITT (DENMARK) AND GATX FULLER (SOUTH AFRICA). APPEARS GATX MAY HAVE ADVANTAGE AS THEIR BID PRESENTED IN ZAIRES (GECAMINES AS SURPRISED AS WE AND COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION), BUT WORLD BANK HAS NOT YET APPROVED RECOMMENDATION.

K) CRUSHER AND ORE TRANSPORTER: THREE FIRMS REMAIN IN CONTEXT: IBAG (FRG), CGEE ALSTON-VENOT (FRANCE), AND KRUPP (FRG). GECAMINES HAS NOT COMPLETED REVIEW OF THESE BIDS.

4. GECAMINES UNCERTAIN EXACTLY WHEN ALL CONTRACTS WILL BE DEFINITELY APPROVED BUT EXPECT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE TO ALLOW WORK TO COMMENCE IN MARCH, 1975. REQUIREMENT FOR WORLD BANK APPROVAL INTRODUCES DELAYS OF UP TO ONE MONTH IN ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACTS AND BANK APPARENTLY NOT LIMITING ITS INVOLVEMENT TO APPROVAL OF MAJOR MODULES. NOW INSISTS ON APPROVAL OF PURCHASES

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AUXILIARY TO MODULES AND OTHER INDIRECT INVOLVEMENT SUCH AS ADVICE ON GOZ EXPORT TAX POLICIES.

MARKS

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Message Attributes

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